

**COMMENTS AND RESPONSES
ON
DRAFT PERMIT**

Permit Type:	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)
Permit Number:	WA0001864
Permit Applicant:	Concrete Technology Corporation 1123 Port of Tacoma Road P O Box 2259 Tacoma, WA 98401
Permitting Authority:	State of Washington Department of Ecology Southwest Regional Office Post Office Box 47775 Olympia, Washington 98504
Permit Writer:	Norman K. Schenck, P. E.

After a tentative decision was made to issue a permit, interested parties were invited to comment on the draft permit during a 30-day period ending March 3, 2004. One respondent, representing an environmental interest group, submitted comments. No public hearing on the draft permit was requested or held. Following is a summary of the comments received and the agency responses, including a description of any changes made in the final decision. Comments have been abbreviated and paraphrased. The full texts of the comments are maintained on file by the department as part of the administrative record of the permit decision. The final decision may be contested as provided for in Section 310 of Chapter 43.21B of the Revised Code of Washington. (Please follow the directions for appeal as set out in the cover letter.)

The comments all have to do with the allowance in the draft permit of a limited space in the receiving water around the discharge point within which the water quality standards that apply to the receiving water can be suspended. This is a common provision in NPDES permits. Under EPA auspices and guidance, Washington and many other states allow such mixing zones, where dilution with a relatively small amount of receiving water can decrease the concentration of pollutants to the allowable standard. Besides recognizing and approving these allowances, EPA also develops, supports and publishes scientific methods for determining or predicting the minimum dilution in any given situation (to assure standards are met at the boundaries of the allotted mixing zone). Federal and state procedures were followed in determining the mixing zone for this permit.

No changes were made in the final permit decision as a result of the comments received on the draft permit.